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Sofer & Haroun LLP  
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EXAMINER

ESCALANTE, OVIDIO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2645

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/049,803

Applicant(s)

PINES ET AL.

Examiner

Ovidio Escalante

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-179 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 63,65-67,69-75,133-140,158,165,173,174,178 and 179 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/15/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is in response to applicant's preliminary amendment filed on September 10, 2004.

#### ***Response to Amendment***

2. The amendment to the claims filed on September 10, 2004 does not comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121(c) because the claims are not numbered consecutively.

In page 31, of the preliminary amendment, Applicants canceled claims 128-131 and then jumped to claim 133. the amendment does not mentioned claim 132. However since claim 132 previously depended upon claim 128, the Examiner will interpret this omission as if claim 132 has also been canceled. If this is not the case, the Examiner respectfully asks Applicants to make the appropriate correction in a subsequent action.

In page 49 of the preliminary amendment, applicants went from claim 177 to claim 179. The Examiner has renumbered claims 179 to be claim 178 and claim 180 to be claim 179 since there was no prior claim 178. The Examiner respectfully asks Applicants to make this correction in a subsequent response.

#### ***Election/Restrictions***

3. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-24,153,154,167-169,171 and 172 drawn to closing prompt module generating a closing prompt code associated with a closing prompt message for said requester, classified in class 379, subclass 88.22.
  - II. Claims 25-28,32-37,76-88,90-92,93-96,141-150,155,159,160 and 166, drawn to database cleanup, allowing subscriber to modify their information AND listing

database and transmitting notification message to subscriber to receive updates for each listing, classified in class 379, subclass 88.12.

- III. Claims **38-49,97-108,110-116,151,156** and **161,170** and **175-177**, drawn to dial string translator AND database directory listing storing information including Special Services field associated with services provided by the subscriber, classified in class 379, subclass 386.
- IV. Claims **50-57,59-62,117-122,123-127,152,157,162** and **163**, drawn to billing record storing information corresponding to amount of time requested was connected to subscriber AND information including Rate Plan Field, classified in class 379, subclass 114.01.
- V. Claims **63,65-67,69-75,133-140,158,165,173,174,178** and **179**, drawn to listing database, connect field which includes information on whether to disclose a subscriber's phone number, and providing an assigned access number to a requester who is requesting a subscriber number, classified in class 379, subclass 201.01.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

- 4. Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as generating a closing prompt code associated with a closing prompt message for said requester. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. Inventions II and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as database cleanup and allowing subscriber to modify their information and listing database and transmitting notification message to subscriber to receive updates for each listing. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

7. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group II is not required for Group III, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

8. Inventions III and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention III has separate utility such as dial string translator and database directory listing storing information including Special Services field associated with services provided by the subscriber. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

9. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group III is not required for Group IV, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

10. Inventions IV and V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention III has separate utility such billing record storing

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information corresponding to amount of time requested was connected to subscriber and information including Rate Plan Field. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

11. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group IV is not required for Group V, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

12. During a telephone conversation with Joseph Sofer on February 10, 2005 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group V, claims 63,65-67,69-75,133-140,158,165,173,174,179 and 180. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 1-28, 32-57,59-62,76-88,90-108,110-127,141-157,159-163,166-172 and 175-177 withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

13. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

***Information Disclosure Statement***

14. The information disclosure statements submitted on September 10, 2004 and November 15, 2004 were received. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

15. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

16. Claims 63,65-67,158 and 178 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Daudelin US Patent 4,959,855.

***Regarding claims 63 and 158***, Daudelin teaches a communication assistance system and method for providing access to information (e.g. directory number listing) corresponding to a plurality of subscribers, (abstract; col. 1, lines 49-65), the system comprising:

a telephone switch (directory assistance service switch) for receiving calls from a plurality of requesters (calling customers) desiring to access said information corresponding to subscribers, (called customers), (col. 1, lines 49-65; col. 5, lines 60-66);

a listing database configured to store said information corresponding to each of said subscribers, (col. 3, lines 20-35), including phone numbers of each of said subscribers (col. 4, lines 34-45) and a connect field that stores information instructing said communication assistance system as to whether to disclose a subscriber's phone number to a requester, (col. 7, lines 24-31,55-61; col. 8, lines 48-61); and

a call center coupled to said switch for routing each of said received calls from said requester to an operator terminal (fig. 1) that has access to said database listing table, (col. 8, lines 27-47), wherein said connect field further comprises information instructing said

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communication assistance system as to whether to disclose said subscriber's phone number to a customer representative who is handling a request from a requester, (col. 8, lines 27-61).

**Regarding claim 65**, Daudelin, as applied to claim 63, teaches a plurality of said call centers remotely connected together via a communications channel, each of said call centers capable of routing a received phone call from each one of said requesters to another one of said call centers, (fig. 1; col. 3, lines 52-67).

**Regarding claim 66**, Daudelin, as applied to claim 63, teaches wherein said operator terminal is operated by a customer representative, (col. 3, lines 37-51).

**Regarding claim 67**, Daudelin, as applied to claim 63, teaches wherein said operator terminal is automated, (col. 7, lines 18-31).

**Regarding claim 178**, Daudelin teaches in a communication assistance system a method for providing access to information corresponding to a plurality of subscribers, (abstract; col. 1, lines 49-65), the method comprising the steps of:

receiving requests from a plurality of requesters desiring to access said information corresponding to subscribers, (col. 1, lines 49-65; col. 5, lines 60-66);

storing in a first database said information corresponding to each of said subscribers, including phone numbers of each of said subscribers, (col. 3, lines 20-35; col. 4, lines 34-45)

routing to a call center coupled to said switch, each of said requests from said requester to an operator terminal, (col. 7, lines 24-31, 55-61)

providing said requests from said requester in a voice call connection format, (col. 1, lines 49-65; col. 8, lines 27-61).



***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

17. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

18. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

19. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

20. Claims 69-75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daudelin in view of McMullin US Patent 5,809,128

***Regarding claim 69***, Daudelin, as applied to claim 63, teaches wherein said listing database further comprises a pre-announcement field. Daudelin does not specifically field the

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pre-announcement field contains instruction information as to whether a subscriber requires to be notified of a requester's identification.

In the same field of endeavor, McMullin teaches of a pre-announcement field that contains instruction information as to whether a subscriber requires to be notified of a requester's identification information before completing a call from said requester to said subscriber, (abstract; col. 7, lines 43-49).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Daudelin by notifying the subscriber of the call as taught by McMullin so that the called party will know who is trying to contact them. This will allow the called party to accept or reject the call before it is completed.

***Regarding claim 70***, Daudelin, as applied to claim 69, teaches wherein said communications assistance system further comprises means to receive instructions from said subscriber as to whether to accept a call originated from said requester, (col. 7, lines 11-31).

***Regarding claim 71***, Daudelin, as applied to claim 69, teaches wherein said communications assistance system further comprises means to receive instructions from said subscriber as to whether to reject a call originated from said requester, (col. 7, lines 11-31).

***Regarding claim 72***, Daudelin, as applied to claim 71, teaches wherein said communications assistance system further comprises a means to receive instructions from said subscriber. Daudelin does not specifically teach of directing a call from a requester to the subscriber's voicemail.

In the same field of endeavor, McMullin teaches of receiving instructions from said subscriber to direct a call from a requester directly to said subscriber's voicemail, (col. 3, lines 56-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Daudelin by sending the requester directly to voicemail as taught by McMullin so that the subscriber does not have to talk to the requester if they are busy.

***Regarding claim 73***, Daudelin, as applied to claim 71, teaches wherein said communication assistance system further comprises a means to store in said listing database instructions from said subscriber. Daudelin does not specifically teach the instruction include information to permanently reject all incoming calls from said individual requester.

In the same field of endeavor, McMullin teaches to permanently reject all incoming calls from said individual requester, (col. 3, lines 56-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Daudelin by permanently rejecting calls from a requester as taught by McMullin so that the subscribers do not have to talk to requesters that they do not like.

***Regarding claim 74***, Daudelin, as applied to claims 71, or 72 or 73, teaches wherein said communication assistance system provides an automated response to said requester, when said call is rejected by said subscriber, (col. 7, lines 31-36).

**Regarding claim 75**, Daudelin, as applied to claims 71, or 72 or 73, teaches said communication assistance system delivers a pre-recorded response to said requester, recorded by said subscriber, when said call is rejected by said subscriber, (col. 7, lines 31-36).

21. Claims 133-138 and 165 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daudelin in view of Fukuzawa et al. US Patent 6,327,353.

**Regarding claim 133**, Daudelin teaches a communication assistance system for providing access to information corresponding to a plurality of subscribers, (abstract; col. 1, lines 49-65), the system comprising:

a telephone switch (directory assistance service switch) for receiving calls from a plurality of requesters desiring to access said information corresponding to subscribers, (col. 1, lines 49-65; col. 5, lines 60-66);

a first database configured to store said information corresponding to each of said subscribers, including phone numbers of each of said subscribers, (col. 3, lines 20-35; col. 4, lines 34-45)

a communications interface for receiving requests for directory assistance via a requester computer terminal, (col. 7, lines 24-31, 55-61 8, lines 48-61).

Daudelin does not specifically teach of an access database containing a plurality of access numbers corresponding to phone listing of each of the subscribers.

In the same field of endeavor, Fukuzawa teaches an access database containing a plurality of access numbers corresponding to phone listing of each one of said subscribers stored in said first database, (abstract), so as to provide an assigned access number (virtual telephone number) to a requester who is requesting a subscriber's telephone number, such that said requester can

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connect to said subscribers using said assigned access number, (col. 1, lines 43-64; col. 3, lines 52-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the directory of Daudelin by using assigned access numbers which correspond to the subscribers telephone number as taught by Fukuzawa so that by using a virtual telephone number which can be given publicly the subscriber real telephone number can remain private.

***Regarding claim 134***, Daudelin, as applied to claim 133, teaches a call center coupled to said switch for routing each of said received calls from said requester to an operator terminal, (col. 3, lines 52-67).

***Regarding claim 135***, Daudelin, as applied to claim 133, teaches an operator terminal operated by a customer representative so as to retrieve information stored in said database, (col. 3, lines 37-51).

***Regarding claim 136***, Daudelin, as applied to claim 133, teaches an automated operator terminal so as to automatically retrieve information from said database, (col. 7, lines 18-31).

***Regarding claim 137***, Daudelin in view of Fukuzawa, as applied to claim 133, teaches means to provide said assigned access number to a communication terminal employed by said requester, (col. 1, lines 43-64; col. 3, lines 52-67).

As stated above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the directory of Daudelin by using assigned access numbers which correspond to the subscribers telephone number as taught by Fukuzawa so that by using a

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virtual telephone number which can be given publicly the subscriber real telephone number can remain private.

***Regarding claim 138***, Daudelin in view of Fukuzawa, as applied to claim 133, teaches wherein said assigned access number when dialed provides access to said telephone switch and said access database, so as to retrieve a corresponding subscriber's phone number for call completion by said telephone switch, (col. 1, lines 43-64; col. 3, lines 52-67).

As stated above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the directory of Daudelin by using assigned access numbers which correspond to the subscribers telephone number as taught by Fukuzawa so that by using a virtual telephone number which can be given publicly the subscriber real telephone number can remain private.

***Regarding claim 165***, Daudelin teaches a method of operating a communication assistance system for providing access to information corresponding to a plurality of subscribers, (col. 1, lines 49-65; abstract), said method comprising the steps of:

receiving calls from a plurality of a requesters desiring to access said information corresponding to subscribers at a telephone switch, (col. 1, lines 49-65; col. 5, lines 60-66);

accessing a first database and retrieving said information corresponding to each of said subscribers, including phone numbers of each of said subscribers, (col. 3, lines 20-35; col. 4, lines 34-45);

receiving requests for directory assistance via a requester communication device, col. 7, lines 24-31; col. 8, lines 27-47).

Daudelin does not specifically teach of maintaining a plurality of access numbers corresponding to phone listing of each one of said subscribers.

In the same field of endeavor, Fukuzawa teaches maintaining a plurality of access numbers corresponding to phone listing of each one of said subscribers stored in said first database in an access database, so as to provide an assigned access number to a requester who is requesting a subscriber's telephone number, wherein said assigned access number disclosed to said requester is associated with subscriber's undisclosed telephone number, such that said requester can connect to said subscriber using said assigned access number, (col. 1, lines 43-64; col. 3, lines 52-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the directory of Daudelin by using assigned access numbers which correspond to the subscribers telephone number as taught by Fukuzawa so that by using a virtual telephone number which can be given publicly the subscriber real telephone number can remain private.

22. Claims 139 and 140 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daudelin in view of Fukuzawa and further in view of Zellner et al. US Patent 2002/0077083.

***Regarding claims 139 and 140,*** Daudelin in view of Fukuzawa teaches wherein the communication terminal may comprises a plurality of different types of terminals including a telephone. Daudelin in view of Fukuzawa do not specifically teach wherein said communication terminal is a wireless handheld device or a personal computer.

In the same field of endeavor, Zellner teaches of a requester for information using either a wireless handheld device or a personal computer, (fig. 2; paragraph 0047).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the terminals of Daudelin and Fukuzawa by using wireless or computer terminals as taught by Zellner so that wireless users can use directory assistance service.

23. Claims 173, 174 and 179 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daudelin in view of Zellner et al. US Patent 2002/0077083.

*Regarding claim 173*, Daudelin teaches a communication assistance system for providing access to information corresponding to a plurality of subscribers, (col. 1, lines 49-65; abstract), the system comprising:

a telephone switch for receiving calls from a plurality of requesters desiring to access said information corresponding to subscribers, (col. 1, lines 49-65; col. 5, lines 60-66);

a database configured to store said information corresponding to each of said subscribers, wherein said database, for said information corresponding to each of said subscriber, (col. 3, lines 20-35; col. 4, lines 34-45).

Daudelin does not specifically teach wherein the database maintains a first wireless phone number field and a first mask field indicating whether a stored wireless phone number remains masked.

In the same field of endeavor, Zellner teaches of a database which maintains a first wireless phone number field, indicating that a stored telephone number is associated with a wireless telephone corresponding to said subscriber and a first mask field, indicating whether a stored wireless phone number remains masked to said requester, (paragraphs 0072, 0074 and 0090).



Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the database listing of Daudelin to include wireless telephone number fields and mask fields as taught by Zellner so that wireless numbers can remain private.

***Regarding claim 174***, Daudelin in view of Zellner, as applied to claim 173, teaches wherein said database further maintains a second mask field, indicating whether said stored wireless' phone number remains masked to a customer service representative, (paragraphs 0074, 0090, Zellner).

As stated above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the database listing of Daudelin to include wireless telephone number fields and mask fields as taught by Zellner so that the subscribers wireless number can remain private.

***Regarding claim 179***, Daudelin, as applied to claim 179, teaches of using a voice format. Daudelin does not specifically teach sending the information to the requester in a non-voice format.

In the same field of endeavor, Zellner teaches of sending information to a requester in non-voice format and wherein for said non-voice format, the method further comprises the step of communicating between a requester and a customer service representative operating said operator terminal, in a variety of formats selected from a list including short messaging service (SMS) and wireless application protocol (WAP), (paragraphs 0060 and 0061).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the format of Daudelin to include non-voice format as taught by Zellner so that the user can choose their format based on the device type that they are using.

***Conclusion***

24. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 872-9306, (for informal or draft communications, please label  
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

220 20<sup>th</sup> Street S.  
Crystal Plaza two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, VA 22202

25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ovidio Escalante whose telephone number is 703-308-6262 (571-272-7537 After March 22, 2005). The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th from 6:30 to 4:00. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan S Tsang can be reached on 703-305-4895 (571-272-7547 After March 22, 2005). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

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applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**OVIDIO ESCALANTE  
PATENT EXAMINER**



Ovidio Escalante  
Examiner  
Group 2645  
February 17, 2005

O.E./oe